



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

School Committee Minutes 06/22/2004

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2004
7:00 PM

Present: Paul Schlichtman, Chair Joani LaMachia
Jeff Thielman, Vice Chair Suzanne Owayda
Martin Thrope, Secretary
Barbara Goodman

Superintendent Kay Donovan
CFO: Rob Addelson
Asst. Supt. Joanne Gurry @ 7:30
Sp. Ed. Director Marilyn Bisbicos @ 7:35
Absent: Sue Sheffler

Call to order: 7:00 PM

Interview of Superintendent Search Firms

Mr. Schlichtman explained that each interview would last 30 minutes. Each firm would have a two-minute opening statement with, each committee member having four minutes for questions and a one-minute closing statement. Mr. Schlichtman stated that this would give each firm the opportunity to explain how and why their firm should work with the Arlington community.

School Committee interviewed the following firms:

J. A. ROY ASSOCIATES, FUTURE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, INC., NESDEC, and EGMONT ASSOCIATES

Each firm answered questions from School Committee members on:

- Recruitment, outreach, screening committees and focus groups
- Non traditional candidates, minority candidates and out of state candidates; the percentage of minority placements, and the reality of a very lean candidate pool
- The expectations of a new superintendent (increased demands by parents and community) and the direction for APS over the next ten years
- Time lines, reference checking, site visits

The Committee thanked each firm and the chair announced that the School Committee would discuss the contracts in executive session at the end of the meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF AHS PRINCIPAL

Supt. Donovan introduced Charles Arlington Skidmore as the newly named principal of Arlington High School. Mr. Skidmore stated that he has been in education for the past 29 years all in the Boston Public Schools. He is delighted to accept the position as principal of Arlington High School and is eager to meet and work with the staff and students.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

COMMITTEE VOTES

.. **Warrant Approval**

On a motion by Ms. LaMachia seconded by Ms. Owayda it was unanimously Voted to approve warrant # 04165 in the amount of \$1,082,770.34.

.. **Dallin School Start Time**

Supt. Donovan requested approval of a later start time for Dallin students grades k-2 attending the Stratton School. The Superintendent explained that the 15 minute later start and finish time would allow the bus routes to start a bit later instead of the proposed 7:10 pick up

time; staff at the Dallin School are in favor of the time change.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman seconded by Ms. Owayda it was unanimously Voted the Supt. recommendation to begin and end school 15 minutes later for Dallin students grades K-2 attending the Stratton school; subject to all contractual approvals.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget

Mr. Thielman reported that Supt. Donovan and CFO Rob Addelson presented the financial reports from all of the after school programs, except the Dallin school, as required in policy KFD.

Mrs. Donovan presented to the subcommittee a prioritized list of programs/positions to be reinstated for FY05 if projected operating surpluses are identified; the list also included proposed freezes if revenue is reduced.

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Ms. Owayda it was unanimously

Voted to receive the priority list for FY05 as presented by Supt. Donovan.

The subcommittee also heard from the Arlington Spanish Network and their hope to keep a modified version at the elementary level. The committee encouraged the development of an after school program with the hopes that Spanish can be reintroduced in the future. Supt. Donovan noted that the Spanish program would be discussed at the next principals' meeting.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

Ms. Goodman reported that at its subcommittee meeting the job description for the Director of Science was approved with slight changes and recommended approval by the full committee.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously

Voted to approve the job description for the APS Science Director K-12.

The subcommittee also discussed the Spanish program and identified two goals: 1) how to keep the spirit of the program alive so that it could be reinitiated if/when funding becomes available; 2) how to continue the language skills for current students (i.e. audio/visual materials).

On a motion by Ms. Goodman, seconded by Mr. Thrope it was unanimously

Voted to direct the Administration and the Spanish Network to collaborate on how to initiate an after school Spanish program and to report back to the Committee in September.

Policy & Procedures

Mr. Thrope reported that Jim Harding of MASC would compile the results from the school committee self-evaluation from committee members and facilitate a workshop tentatively on July 19th or August 1st. The policy will be revisited after the workshop.

Mr. Thrope presented the following policies for a 2nd reading and approval/adoption.

• Policy BDFA-E-3 – District-Wide Goal Setting and Performance Objective Process

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously

Voted adoption of Policy BDFA-E-3 District Wide Goal Setting and Performance Objective Process.

• Policy BEDB – Agenda format/Preparation and Dissemination

• Mr. Thrope brought before the committee changes to policy BEDB and recommended approval of the recommended changes.

Mr. Schlichtman referred to his memo to the School Committee that outlined his reasons for not supporting the policy changes at this time.

Ms. Goodman moved to table the policy changes until after the school committee self-evaluation workshop. Motion withdrawn.

Mr. Thrope pointed out that the addition of new business on the agenda is an identified component of Robert's Rules; it is also an open and public way to have items placed on the agenda. Mr. Thielman was in agreement with Mr. Thrope and noted that the change was supported by the subcommittee.

Ms. Goodman seconded by Ms. LaMachia moved to postpone the policy changes until after the school committee self-evaluation workshop, that the committee uses the information from the workshop to improve the structure of the school committee meeting. Motion fails 3-3

Mr. Thielman moved, seconded by Mr. Thrope the recommended changes to policy BEDB: the addition of New Business under bulleted items and the addition of the last sentence in the fourth paragraph.

Roll Call: 4 –2 motion carries (Mr. Schlichtman and Ms. Goodman voted against the motion) Ms. Goodman reaffirmed with her no vote that the results from the workshop would provide valuable information and give a broader perspective of the issue.

Policy GCF – Professional Staff Hiring

On a motion by Mr. Thrope, seconded by Mr. Thielman it was unanimously

Voted to approve the changes (the addition of number four) in policy GCF Professional Staff Hiring

• Policy GCQF – Suspension and Dismissal of Professional Staff Members

On a motion by Mr. Thrope, seconded by Mr. Thielman it was unanimously

Voted the amendment of Policy GCQF (second paragraph) Suspension and Dismissal of Professional Staff Members.

• **Policy JLCCB – Students with Life Threatening Allergies** Mr. Thrope commended and thanked nurse supervisors Marie Doughty and Lucille Gallagher for their extensive work on the policy. The policy will be sent to MASC; additionally the subcommittee will review the policy in January to ensure compliance and evaluate how policy is working.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Mr. Thielman it was unanimously

Voted adoption of Policy JLCCB Students with Life Threatening Allergies.

• Policy JLCCB-E –Protocol and Guidelines for Students with Life Threatening Allergies in the APS.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Mr. Thielman it was unanimously Voted adoption of Policy JLCCB-E Protocol and Guidelines for Students with LTA in the APS.

Mr. Thrope presented the following policies for a 1st reading.

“ Policy KHBA - Display of Signage and Advertising at School; Sporting Events

“ Policy BEDG – School Committee Minutes

Mr. Schlichtman suggested that the subcommittee take the excerpt from the Attorney General’s recommendation on open meeting law and minutes and create an exhibit to accompany Policy BEDG

“ Policy BGE – Policy Dissemination

“ Policy BHE –Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members

“ Policy BIA – New School Committee Member Orientation

“ Policy BID – School Committee Member Compensation

“ Policy BK – School Committee Memberships

The next subcommittee meeting will take place on July 30th at 3:00 pm.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

“ Vote/Summer Authorization for Expenditure of Funds

Supt. Donovan requested authority to pay bills and warrants over the summer as was past practice. Mr. Schlichtman requested postponement of the request until after executive session. Mr. Schlichtman stated if there is a need to schedule another meeting before the end of June that the committee could authorize end of the year transfers at that time.

“ Personnel Update

Supt. Donovan reported that Brackett School principal Robert Penta would act as principal at the Peirce School for the next year. Mrs. Donovan will name an interim principal at the Brackett School for the 2004-2005 school year.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

“ Correspondence

Mr. Thrope reviewed correspondence.

On a motion by Ms. LaMachia seconded by Ms. Goodman it was

Voted to enter executive session for the purpose of considering a contract for the Supt. Search Firm. The committee will return to open session to take a public vote if there is a decision on the search firm.

Roll Call: Unanimous

Executive Session 10: 30 – 10:50 PM

“ Negotiations/Supt. Search Consultant

PUBLIC VOTE ON SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH FIRM

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Mr. Thrope it was unanimously

Voted to name Future Management Systems as the consultant for the superintendent search and to authorize the chair of the supt. search subcommittee to meet and negotiate a contract with Future Management Systems.

Mr. Schlichtman announced that the School Committee would meet for a brief meeting on June 30th at 8:30 pm to close out the budget and to receive an update on the contract with FMS.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Mr. Thielman, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 10:55 pm

Submitted by

Karen Tassone

Committee Secretary